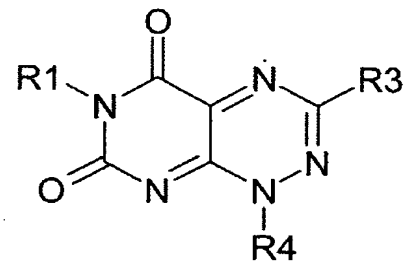
We claim:

1. A compound of formula I,



I

wherein

R1, R3 and R4 are each independently H, F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, O-(C_2-C_{10})-alkynyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

wherein said (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, O-(C_2-C_{10})-alkynyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl and (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl radicals are optionally substituted with one or more groups independently selected from F, Cl, Br, SO-phenyl, SO_2-phenyl or phenyl,

wherein said SO-phenyl, SO_2-phenyl or phenyl radicals is optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, R13 or OR13,

COOR13, CON(R14)(R15), N(R14)(R15), CO-heteroalkyl, O-SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, O-SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl, O-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl,

wherein said O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl and O-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl radicals is optionally mono- or disubstituted with F, Cl, CN, OR13, R13, CF_3 or OCF_3,

SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl,

wherein said SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl radical is optionally mono- or disubstituted with F, Cl, Br,

CN, OR13, R13, CF_3, OCF_3, COOR13 or CON(R14)(R15),

SO_2-N(R14)(R15) or heteroalkyl;

R13, R14 and R15, are each independently H, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or phenyl;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. The compound of Claim 1 wherein:

R1 is H or (C_1-C_6)-alkyl;

R1, R3 and R4 are each independently H, F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, O-(C_2-C_{10})-alkynyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

wherein said (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, O-(C_2-C_{10})-alkynyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl and (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl radicals are optionally substituted with one or more groups independently selected from F, Cl, Br, SO-phenyl, SO_2-phenyl or phenyl,

wherein said SO-phenyl, SO_2-phenyl or phenyl radicals is optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, R13 or OR13,

COOR13, CON(R14)(R15), N(R14)(R15), CO-heteroalkyl, O-SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, O-SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl, O-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl,

wherein said O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl and O-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl radicals is optionally mono- or disubstituted with F, Cl, CN, OR13, R13, CF_3 or OCF_3,

SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl,

wherein said SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl radical is optionally mono- or disubstituted with F, Cl, Br, CN, OR13, R13, CF_3, OCF_3, COOR13 or CON(R14)(R15),

SO_2-N(R14)(R15) or heteroalkyl;

R13, R14 and R15 are, independently of each other, H, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or phenyl;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

3. The compound of Claim 2 wherein:

R1 is (C_1-C_6)-alkyl;

R3 is (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-phenyl or (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl-phenyl, wherein the phenyl ring of said (C_1-C_6)-alkyl-phenyl and (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl-phenyl groups is optionally substituted by F, Cl, Br, OR13 or R13;

R4 is (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or (C_1-C_6)-alkylene-D;

R13 is (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or phenyl;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

4. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the composition of Claim 4 and at least one additional active compound.

6. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 5 wherein said additional active compound is selected from one or more of the following classes: antidiabetics, hypoglycaemic active compounds, HMGCoA reductase inhibitors, cholesterol absorption inhibitors, PPAR gamma agonists, PPAR alpha agonists, PPAR alpha/gamma agonists, fibrates, MTP inhibitors, bile acid absorption inhibitors, CETP inhibitors, polymeric bile acid absorbers, LDL receptor inducers, ACAT inhibitors, antioxidants, lipoprotein lipase inhibitors, ATP citrate lyase inhibitors, squalene synthetase inhibitors, lipoprotein(a) antagonists, lipase inhibitors, insulins, sulfonylureas, biguanides, meglitinides, thiazolidinediones, α-glucosidase inhibitors, active compounds acting on the ATP-dependent potassium channel in beta cells, CART agonists, NPY agonists, MC4 agonists, orexin agonists, H3

agonists, TNF agonists, CRF agonists, CRF BP antagonists, urocortin agonists, β3 agonists, MSH (melanocyte-stimulating hormone) agonists, CCK agonists, serotonin reuptake inhibitors, mixed serotoninergic and noradrenergic compounds, 5HT agonists, bombesin agonists, galanin antagonists, growth hormones, growth hormone-releasing compounds, TRH agonists, uncoupling protein 2 or 3 modulators, leptin agonists, DA agonists (Bromocriptine, Doprexin), lipase/amylase inhibitors, PPAR modulators, RXR modulators or TR-β agonists or amphetamines.

7. A method of lowering blood sugar which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

8. A method of treating type 2 diabetes which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

9. A method of treating disturbances of lipid and carbohydrate metabolism which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

10. A method of treating arteriosclerotic symptoms which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

11. A method of treating insulin resistance which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.